Commercial floriculture throughout India. The major components of the scheme are:

(i) Setting up of Model Floriculture Centres

(ii) Area expansion

(iii) Training

(iv) Demonstration plots

(v) Green houses and shade nets

(vi) Nurseries

The scheme is being implemented in all the Eastern states including Orissa. In the eastern states, during VIII plan period one Model Floriculture Centre each in West Bengal and Sikkim was allocated and during IX plan period one Model Floriculture Centre each in Orissa, Bihar and Nagaland has been allocated. .

(c) and (d) No Sir. The Government is not exporting flowers. However Government is promoting export of flowers by private sector, cooperatives and others through its schemes for the production of quality flowers, setting up of cargo handling and cold storage facilities at New Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Trivandrum airports for handling of flowers, setting up of wholesale cum market auction centre for flowers and assistance to exporters of floriculture products for various promotional activities such as market development, brand publicity, quality control and packaging development.

The export of flowers during the Eighth Plan (1992—97) was of the order of Rs. 188.12 crore and during the Ninth Plan (1997—2002) till November 2000 is of the order of Rs. 234.43 crore. No specific target for the export of flowers during the Ninth Plan has been setup.

Mushroom Cultivation

2329. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government to increase mushroom cultivation in some States;

(b) whether Central assistance hasten given to the State Governments for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the areas brought under mushroom cultivation on Orissa and other states during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (c) Government is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme to increase mushroom cultivation in the country since VIII Plan period. During VIII plan a sum of Rs. 1108.41 lakh was released to various states. The scheme is being continued during IX plan period with an outlay of Rs. 1950 lakh. During 1999-2000 an amount of Rs. 400.00 lakh has been allocated. The major components of the scheme are:

(i) Establishment of pasteurised compost unit

(ii) Establishment of spawn laboratory

(iii) Training unit

(iv) Post harvest and marketing unit

Besides, National Horticulture Board (NHB) under its scheme namely Development of marketing of Horticulture produce through participation in soft loan is financing various projects on commercial cultivation of mushroom. NHB has financed 15 units under this scheme, out of which 1 unit is located in Orissa. Department of Food Processing Industries is also providing assistance for commercial cultivation of mushroom to various units under its scheme Establishment of post harvest infrastructure and cold chain facilities for food processing and integrated projects of mushroom, hops, gherkins and babycorn.

The details of area brought under mushroom cultivation in Orissa and other parts of the country are not available. However, as per the estimates compiled by National Center for Mushroom Research and Training (NCMRT), during 1997-98, the total production of mushroom in the country was 40000 MT of which production in Orissa was 700 MT.

Boosting the performance of ECIL

2330. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the show-room of EC TV and Repair workshop of Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. in Delhi have been wound up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) me steps taken to ensure that EC TV already sold are not deprived of repairs by the company; and